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tadpoles, water beetles and crayfish. The fishes proved to be young *Acantharchus pomotis* and *Esox americanus*. The whole section of country was suffering from an almost unprecedented drought, and many ponds and small streams which undoubtedly contained fish under normal conditions were absolutely dry, while in the big river swamps the water was entirely restricted to the channels.

WITMER STONE,
Philadelphia, Pa.

POISONOUS SNAKES NEAR NEW YORK CITY

It will be of interest to herpetologists to learn of the occurrence of poisonous snakes in the southerly portion of Westchester County. For some years past the writer has had reports of the occurrence of copperhead snakes and occasional rattlesnakes in the region immediately north of White Plains and south of Mt. Kisco. He has been sceptical of these reports owing to the habits of several species of non-poisonous snakes which vibrate their tails when angry, causing these to be mistaken for rattlesnakes. There is also the common habit among local observers without proper knowledge of mistaking harmless water snakes (*Tropidonotus*) and the flat-headed "adders" (*Heterodon*) for the copperhead snake. Of late, however, there have been persistent rumors of copperhead snakes in the hills near North White Plains. The country is quite wild and few people roam about the hilly portions. On the 25th of June a friend of the writer confirmed these rumors by capturing a large copperhead snake (*Ancistrodon contortrix*) on a hill a short distance from North White Plains. This is the nearest definite record

of a poisonous snake occurring in the vicinity of the boundary of New York City that the writer has ever received—excepting the numerous copperheads captured on the Palisades along the west shore of the Hudson. The specimen described was caught just ten miles from the city line.

It is particularly interesting to note that the reports of rattlesnakes occurring in southerly Westchester County have also been confirmed by a large yellow specimen being captured on a hill near Sherman Park, this being seventeen miles from the city line. The collector informed the writer that there were several other snakes seen on this same hill, which is of a ledgy character.

RAYMOND L. DITMARS,

New York, N. Y.

AN UNUSUAL RED SALAMANDER

A few days ago while chopping cord-wood with my friend Dr. Bremer of the Harvard Medical School, I was surprised to find, under the bark of a hemlock log, a brilliant red salamander. I thought first that I had the red eft form of the common pond salamander (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), though the situation was not one where this creature would be expected. Next I thought of *Spelerpes ruber*, but I knew instinctively that this also was improbable on account of the location. An examination showed that it was an aberrantly colored individual of *Plethodon erythronotus*. This species, if examined closely in a living state, will often be seen to show scattered, minute red dots in the black areas, showing that the red pigment is not really confined to the mid-dorsal region. It probably exists along with the black pigment wherever this occurs, but only shows when